

East Germany

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC VPL School No 500 in Kamenz

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EVALUATION [] ACE OBTAINED []

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DATE OF CONTENT prior to 18 July 1953

REMARKS

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1. [] the VPL School No 500 in Kamenz was directly subordinate to the VPL headquarters and was quartered in the southwestern section of the former Panzer Kaserne in Kamenz. The school numbered about 1,500 men. []

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[] The school comprised two training courses, one for aircraft technicians and one for mechanics. The aircraft technicians held ranks of sub-lieutenants or lieutenants and were responsible for only one aircraft each. The mechanics, were EM or NCOs and serviced 3 or 4 aircraft each.

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2. Training course I [] consisted of 5 companies with 5 platoons each and 27 men to each platoon. There were 3 companies of aircraft technicians and 1 company each of radio and ordnance mechanics. The 2-year course was attended by officer candidates between the ages of 18 to 20 years. An intermediate examination was scheduled to be held after one year, i.e. in mid-July 1953 for the present course. So far, only theoretical instructions have been given in mathematics, statics, mechanics, electricity (with special consideration to its application in aircraft), technical drawing, properties of materials, fuels and lubricants, aircraft theory, map reading, theory of jet engines, and theory of piston engines.

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3. Training course II [] also consisted of 5 companies with 5 platoons each and 27 men to each platoon. There were 3 companies of aircraft mechanics, one company composed of radio and ordnance mechanics, and 1 company of radar and signal mechanics. This course was scheduled to last one year. The present course was to be completed in August 1953. The following subjects were given: Group I, political indoctrination, Senior Lieutenant Grosse (fnu), alleged to have attended a Napola (national socialist boarding school); Group II, aircraft theory, Captain Kernchen (fnu); Group III, aircraft engines, Captain Alfred Hassmann; Group IV, ordnance, Captain Waldemar Fritz;

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Group V, radio matters, Captain Sydow (fnu);
 Group VI, electro technics and equipment, Captain Dietrich (fnu);
 Groups VII and IX, subjects of general knowledge, Senior Lieutenant Hoffmann (fnu) and Senior Lieutenant Friedrich (fnu);
 Group VIII, maintenance, Captain Mattern (fnu);
 Group X, tactics, Senior Lieutenant Krauser (fnu), alleged to have transferred to the pilot training course;
 Group XI, craftsmanship, Senior Lieutenant Frahm (fnu);
 Group XII, interpreters, Senior Lieutenant Heer (fnu).
 About 80 other officers were assigned as instructors to the training groups mentioned.

4. Training manuals were issued only against the certificate of identification. Trainers as well as trainees received notebooks with the pages being consecutively numbered. It was prohibited to write notes on a slip of paper during the lessons. Instruction and training material had to be turned in in the evening. When leaving the installation, brief cases were checked, but bodily searches have not been made so far. After 17 June, all bachelor members of the school had to live in the billeting area. All EM were issued Soviet carbines which had allegedly arrived from Augustusbad or Klotzsche. On 12 July, Soviet submachine guns arrived. During the disturbances in East Germany, two companies of the school were committed, one in Radeberg and the other one in Kamenz.

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Comment. The technical officers' and NCOs' school No 500 in Kamenz was reported previously. This is the first detailed information on this school. The names of the officers of the training staff were known previously. School No 500 is subordinate to the VPL headquarters. Previously, the Mechanics School No 604 of VPL Div 600 was also located in Kamenz. School No 604 probably trained technical personnel of the VPL division in short training courses, in order to make them ready to take over as quickly as possible the maintenance service of the individual VPL regiments. School No 500, however, was established for a systematic and thorough training of aircraft technicians and mechanics. Probably, mostly new VPL members are now being trained at this school, receiving at the same time basic military training.

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